

# **RAB Minutes**

**NAS North Island**

**Restoration Advisory Board**

## **Introduction**

The fifty-first Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, November 19, 1998, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. William E. Collins, Interim Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public. He introduced the future Navy Co-Chair, John Locke.

RAB Attendance: Alan Clark, Bill Collins, Carla Fargo, Ron Hiland, Laura Hunter, Sandor Kaupp, John Locke, Bob Logan, Richard Mach, Larry McCauley, Marsha Mingay, Art Van Rooy, Gregory Walker

Public/Navy Attendance: Rick Basinet, Arno Bernardo, Mark Bonsavage, Neal Clements, Merry Coons, Stephan Dirtadian, Scott Donovan, Mike Magee, Vivian Mayer, Tracy Mogg, Rick Phillips, Bill Williams

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Ms. Fargo asked that the minutes reflect how many groundwater monitoring wells were contaminated at Site 9. Mr. Collins explained that two of the deeper wells had material seep out, contaminating two adjacent wells. Mr. Clark moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 1998 meeting as amended. Mr. Logan seconded, and the minutes were approved.

## **COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR ELECTION – Mr. Collins**

Mr. Collins asked for nominations for the community Co-Chair. Mr. Kaupp questioned if a quorum was present. Mr. Collins stated that there was a quorum. Ms. Hunter nominated herself, provided that no other community member stepped forward. Ms. Fargo volunteered, and Ms. Hunter withdrew her nomination. Mr. Van Rooy moved that nominations be closed. Ms. Fargo was unanimously elected Community Co-Chair of the RAB.

## **REVIEW OF RAB CHARTER AND RAB PROCEDURES [Bill Collins]**

Mr. Collins suggested forming a subcommittee to review the Restoration Advisory Board Mission Statement and Operating Procedures. He pointed out one procedure, 1.3(j), which states that the RAB will meet once every two months. The consensus was to begin meeting regularly on the third Thursday of each month (except July and December), starting with the May meeting. Dates were set for the March and April meetings. Ms. Mayer will contact the library for date availability and report back to the RAB at the January meeting. The RAB members will read the Mission Statement thoroughly and be prepared to discuss it at the January meeting, and form a subcommittee if necessary.

## SITE 9 PRESENTATION [Bill Collins]

Ms. Masters is helping the RAB by reviewing the documentation on Site 9, with particular attention to groundwater. She is waiting for direction from the RAB Technical Assistance Committee (RABTAC) after they meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will then attend the January RAB meeting to make her presentation. The RABTAC also plans to talk about Dr. Gurol's role and whether or not to apply for a Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) grant for fiscal year 1999.

Mr. Collins told the RAB that there are two substitute topics in lieu of Ms. Master's presentation. He introduced Scott Donovan of Bechtel National, Inc. to talk about the shoreline replacement wells and the NoVOCs program at Site 9.

### NoVOCs:

Mr. Donovan explained that Navy Environmental Leadership Program (NELP) brought the NoVOCs project to Site 9. The NoVOCs system extracts volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by aerating and recirculating groundwater within the treatment well. In 1996, soil borings and cone penetrometers (CPT) were used to characterize the soil column. At about 60 to 70 feet, they encountered resistance, and had difficulty drilling. There was a shallow layer of sandstone a bit further down

The NoVOCs well was activated in February of 1997. There were initial equipment problems, including difficulty with the observation unit, a faulty pH electrode, and the logic controller. After the unit had been running for a month, the pipes were stained with iron oxide. Although it was cleaned and parts were replaced, the iron fouling problem reoccurred. Then there was a shut down due to high level water.

In August, Te tratech was called in, through the Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (EPA SITE) program, to perform recharge tests. They found particulates, which even at very low levels can clog the well. The following month chlorine was added to try to prevent the iron fouling, yet water continued to back up. The well has been shut off since October. The stripping efficiencies were higher than the 80% the technology owners claimed. It was as high as 99%, and was generally between 93-98% when the system was operating. However, clogging and iron fouling has kept the system off line for much of this period.

The effectiveness of the NoVOCs system is continuing to be evaluated. More status updates will be provided in future RAB meetings.

### Shoreline Wells:

Shoreline groundwater well samples were taken, which showed slight contamination in the shallow groundwater, but heavier contamination below the silt layer at 35-40 feet. The chemicals found are all dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) and include tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and dichloroethene (DCE). The deep wells appear to be the source. The DNAPLs hit the B clay layer and migrated toward the shoreline. The deeper well extend through the confining silt/clay layer. Tidal actions cause the water in the well to rise and fall. This "pumping" action is believed to be pulling the high concentrations of contaminants from the lower groundwater zone, through the well, and up into the higher groundwater zone. Bechtel recommended abandoning the two deeper wells, which showed contamination and leakage. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) has approved the plan. They have asked that new wells be installed to monitor those two zones. Abandoning a well involves removing all the well materials and cementing the hole to plug it up.

Mr. McCauley asked if a camera could be used to see the DNAPLs. Mr. Donovan said only particles were visible, but not the DNAPLs themselves. Mr. Kaupp observed that the plume seemed to be migrating, and asked if there were plans to monitor that. Mr. Donovan said that current plans call for 3 quarterly samplings of the wells above the contaminated area, but that there are as yet no plans for porewater samples.

#### Soil Vapor Extraction:

Mr. Collins introduced Merry Coons from OHM Remediation Services (OHM). She explained that she would be reviewing the soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at Site 9. They worked in 3 areas. The SVE in two of those areas is almost complete with respect to chlorinated compounds such as TCE, PCE, trichloroethane (1,1,1 TCA). They have yet to do confirmation sampling following the rebound testing. Ms. Hunter asked what amount of time is typically required for performing a rebound test. Ms. Coons said that there is no standard time period, but that they waited 4 or 5 months for Area 3 and it showed no rebound.

Ms. Hunter suggested waiting another five months and testing again. Ms. Coons explained that they would like to collect and analyze soil samples vice vapor samples (rebound sampling), since soil samples are more accurate. Mr. Clark asked what an acceptable rebound level would be. Ms. Coons responded that the goal is an asymptotic response, a flat trend rather than an increasing or decreasing trend. There is not a numerical number set for the site.

One area, the north side of Area 1, has been problematic. The level now is about 2,000 ppm, which is still quite high, although they have declined somewhat. In May they began injecting air into the subsurface, and while that was effective in bringing out a lot of contamination, the levels were still not decreasing. The presence of free product (TCE and 1,1,1 TCA) was detected in some temporary monitoring wells.

OHM coordinated with the Navy Public Works Center (PWC) Site Characterization and Analysis Penetrometer System (SCAPS) team and is using a push tool with a laser tip. The SCAPS investigation began November 12<sup>th</sup> and the expected completion is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. They have already found high concentrations along Third Street West. Mr. McCauley queried whether free product thickness could determine, and Ms. Coons explained how free product thickness is shown in the logs.

Ms. Hunter again asked about delaying the rebound sampling. Ms. Coons replied that the Navy and DTSC agreed with OHM that further confirmation would be done through soil samples. Mr. Mach added that with ongoing work on Area 1 North, the data from soil samples take on more importance. Ms. Hunter inquired about the cost of waiting six months or a year and performing another rebound test. Ms. Coons and Mr. Mach said that since this contract is continuing, the cost of waiting is minimal. Ms. Hunter emphasized her desire to have the Navy do another rebound test in a year. Mr. Mach said that there would be no problem with such a test. Ms. Coons informed the RAB that the nature of vapor is such that were there any rebound it would have shown up by now, but that another test could be done.

Mr. Van Rooy asked about the age of the free product, and Ms. Coons said that they had not done any fingerprinting, but they certainly could. They do know that dumping stopped during the 1970's, so it would have had to have been before that. Mr. Kaupp commented that what mattered was what was in the ground, rather than what equipment was being used to treat it, and that it would be important to do extensive ground testing before closing out Site 9. Mr. Collins reminded the RAB that it is necessary to remove the vapors and free product from the soil so that they can then address the metals and other contaminants, which remain.

Mr. Kaupp asked whether the laser push tool could be used to monitor the plume that is heading toward the

bay. Ms. Coons explained that the tool fluoresces fuels not chlorinated compounds. Mr. Mach added that the only way to detect the chlorinated compounds at that depth is if they are co-mingled with petroleum.

#### **NAB SITE 6 UPDATE [Richard Mach]**

The RAB toured this site in October, just prior to the start of OHM's excavation. The work went according to plan. They have taken confirmation samples from the bottom, the sidewalls around the excavation area, and additional samples (as requested by the RAB) in the drainage swales and the shoreline area. All the tributyltin (TBT) results are not back yet, but they do have results for copper, arsenic and lead. There is one area, which will be excavated deeper. The total volume of soil excavated was approximately 700 cubic yards. The two contaminants, which were detected, were copper and TBT, which were remediated to 127 parts per million (ppm) and 9 parts per billion (ppb), respectively.

#### **SITES 2 AND 9 REMOVAL ACTION [Richard Mach]**

Excavation should begin on November 30<sup>th</sup> for the low-level radioactive removal action. It should be complete by Christmas. The soil will be excavated, put into drums and then stored on Site 9. The sites will be backfilled. The Army will dispose of the soil.

#### **UNDERGROUND TANKS ADJACENT TO NAS NORTH ISLAND [Richard Mach]**

Mr. Mach told the RAB about a meeting he attended with Coronado residents, the school board and the city council, as well as Congressman Bilbray's representative. During a recent mapping study of NAS North Island where the Navy was looking for underground storage tanks, they discovered an area of land that had been transferred to the public in 1948, which formerly housed barracks. The 15.5-acre site is in the area of Country Club Lane and Sixth Avenue. It now contains housing and an elementary school. Each of the barracks had an underground tank that held heating oil. Currently they do not know whether the tanks were removed or not. The meeting was held to inform the concerned parties about this, and to say that the Navy is concerned and wants to address this. Mr. Mach explained that since this is not an IR site, this issue would not be briefed at future RAB meetings. There will be follow on meetings with the residents, and Mr. Mach wanted the RAB to be aware of this matter. The point of contact is Lee Saunders, the Public Affairs Officer. He can be reached at 532-3100. Ms. Fargo asked how this is being publicized, and Mr. Mach explained that a letter was sent to every resident on the affected property, or to the occupant and owner in the case of a rental, to the Mayor's office, to the City School Board and to Congressman Bilbray. In addition, there was an article on the front page of "The Eagle". Mr. McCauley asked about the size of the tanks. Mr. Mach said they were 1400-gallon concrete cylindrical tanks. Mr. McCauley inquired about the effect on property values, and Mr. Collins said that they are not speculating on that. Mr. Kaupp congratulated Mr. Mach on discovering this, on examining the historical documents.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Hunter mentioned that she and Mr. Mach attended the Global Green Group conference on base closure, and that each of them made a presentation. Ms. Hunter spoke on public participation, and Mr. Mach spoke on innovative technologies and the Sites 4, 6 and 10 PCB removal action. She also said that the comment period closed on the nuclear carrier environmental impact statement (EIS). Ms. Hunter informed the RAB that the Environmental Health Coalition recently released a community-based health survey on the communities of Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights and National City, and that she has copies of the survey. She said that this is something to pursue for Coronado. In response to a query from Mr. McCauley, she said that Joy Williams, on staff at EHC, had been on National Public Radio discussing the survey.

Mr. Collins stated that the Draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) is still out for review and is available in the library or from him directly. Mr. Collins can be reached at 556-9901, and the comments should be

mailed to him by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

Ms. Mingay said that she did not receive her agenda and minutes package prior to tonight's meeting. Ms. Mayer said that they had been mailed 9 days prior to the meeting. She said that anyone who had an e-mail address should add it to the sign-in sheet and that they would receive the information packet by e-mail immediately as well as first class mail.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Collins listed two items for the January meeting – a Site 9 report from Mary Masters of TOSC, and a discussion on the RAB Mission Statement. He requested that the RAB members read it and come to the January meeting prepared to discuss it. Ms. Hunter added that there would be a report from the RABTAC. Ms. Mingay asked if there would be enough time to cover comments on the CRP. Ms. Hunter suggested a training session on groundwater at some point in the future. Mr. Mach mentioned Gary Beckett, a professor of geology at SDSU, and that he will discuss this with Dr. Gurol. Mr. Collins suggested having a questionnaire at the next meeting, perhaps sending it out with the mailing.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Wednesday, January 13, 1999

Thursday, February 18, 1999

Thursday, March 25, 1999

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.